**Amendments to the claims:**

1. (original) A method for the treatment of atherosclerosis in a patient in need of such treatment which comprises administering an effective amount of a bisphosphonate to the patient.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A method for the prevention and treatment of atherosclerotic calcification of blood vessels and valves in a patient, which comprises administering an effective amount of a bisphosphonate to the patient~~; or use of a bisphosphonate in the preparation of a medicament for the prevention and treatment of atherosclerotic calcification of blood vessels and valves; or use of a bisphosphonate in the preparation of a medicament for the prevention and treatment of calcification of blood vessels and valves associated with renal failure~~.

6. (currently amended) A method for the stabilisation of atherosclerotic plaques in a patient, which comprises administering an effective amount of a bisphosphonate to the patient~~; or use of a bisphosphonate in the preparation of a medicament for stabilisation of atherosclerotic plaques~~.

7. (currently amended) A method for preventing or treating smooth muscle cell proliferation and migration in hollow tubes, or increased cell proliferation or decreased apoptosis or increased matrix deposition in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a bisphosphonate~~, e.g zoledronic, acid~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in conjunction with one or more other active ingredients.

8. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of intimal thickening in vessel

walls comprising administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a bisphosphonate~~, e.g. zoledronic acid,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in conjunction with one or more other active ingredients

9. (currently amended) A method ~~or use~~ according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the bisphonate is administered locally

10. (currently amended) A method ~~or use according to claim 9~~ for the treatment of intimal thickening in vessel walls or stabilisation of vulnerable atherosclerotic plaques comprising the controlled delivery from a catheter-based device, intraluminal medical device or device applied to the external/adventitial aspect of the vessel of a therapeutically effective amount of a bisphosphonate~~, e.g. zoledronic acid,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in conjunction with one or more other active ingredients

11. (currently amended) A method ~~or use~~ according to ~~claim 9~~ claim 8 wherein the bisphosphonate~~, e.g. zoledronic acid,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered or delivered in conjunction with one or more other active ingredients selected from the group consisting of a calcineurin inhibitor, an EDG-Receptor agonist, an anti-inflammatory agent, a mTOR inhibitor agent, an antiproliferative agent, a microtubule stabilizing or destabilizing agent, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, a compound which inhibits osteoclast activity, a compound which inhibits the PDGF receptor tyrosine kinase, ~~or~~ a compound ~~or antibody~~ or antibody which binds to PDGF, a compound or antibody which ~~or~~ reduces expression of the PDGF receptor, a compound or antibody which inhibits the EGF receptor tyrosine kinase, ~~or~~ a compound which binds to EGF, a compound which ~~or~~ reduces expression of the EGF receptor, a compound or antibody which inhibits the VEGF receptor tyrosine kinase or a VEGF receptor, ~~or~~ a compound or antibody which binds to VEGF, and a modulator of kinases.

12. (original) A drug delivery device or system comprising a) a medical device adapted for local application or administration in hollow tubes and b) a therapeutic dosage of zoledronic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof being releasably affixed to the medical device.

13. (currently amended) A device according to claim 12 comprising b) a therapeutic dosage of a bisphosphonate~~, e.g. zoledronic acid~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in conjunction with a therapeutic dosage of one or more other active ingredients, each being releasably affixed to the medical device and the other active ingredient being selected from the group consisting of a calcineurin inhibitor, an EDG-Receptor agonist, an anti-inflammatory agent, a mTOR inhibitor agent, an antiproliferative agent, a microtubule stabilizing or destabilizing agent, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, a compound which inhibits osteoclast activity, a compound which inhibits the PDGF receptor tyrosine kinase, ~~or~~ a compound ~~or antibody~~ or antibody which binds to PDGF, a compound or antibody which ~~or~~ reduces expression of the PDGF receptor, a compound or antibody which inhibits the EGF receptor tyrosine kinase, ~~or~~ a compound which binds to EGF, a compound which ~~or~~ reduces expression of the EGF receptor, a compound or antibody which inhibits the VEGF receptor tyrosine kinase or a VEGF receptor, ~~or~~ a compound or antibody which binds to VEGF, and a modulator of kinases.

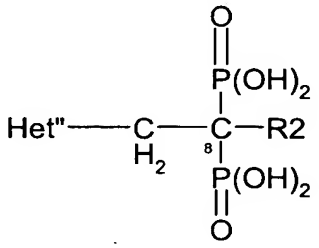
14. (currently amended) A device according to claim 12 comprising b) a therapeutic dosage of a bisphosphonate~~, e.g. zoledronic acid,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in conjunction with a therapeutic dosage of one or more other active ingredients, each being releasably affixed to the medical device and the other active ingredient being selected from the group consisting of a calcineurin inhibitor, a mTOR inhibitor agent, an EDG-Receptor agonist, an anti-inflammatory agent, a microtubule stabilizing or destabilizing agent, a compound which inhibits osteoclast activity, a compound or antibody which inhibits the PDGF receptor tyrosine kinase, ~~or~~ a compound which binds to PDGF or reduces expression of the PDGF receptor, a compound or antibody which inhibits the EGF receptor tyrosine kinase, ~~or~~ a compound which binds to EGF or reduces expression of the EGF receptor, a compound or antibody which inhibits the VEGF receptor tyrosine kinase, ~~or~~ a VEGF receptor or a compound which binds to VEGF, and an inhibitor of a modulator ~~(i.e. antagonists or agonists)~~ of kinases.

15. (currently amended) A method ~~use or device~~ according to ~~anyone of claims 9-14~~ claim 8 wherein the administration or delivery is made using a catheter delivery system, a device applied to the external/ adventitial aspect of the vessel a local

injection device, an indwelling device, a stent, a coated stent, a sleeve, a stent-graft, polymeric endoluminal paving or a controlled release matrix.

16. (currently amended) A method ~~use or device~~ according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the bisphosphonate is selected from the following group of compounds or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof: 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid (pamidronic acid), ~~e.g. pamidronate (APD);~~ 3-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, ~~e.g. dimethyl-APD;~~ 4-amino-1-hydroxybutane-1,1-diphosphonic acid ~~(alendronic acid), e.g. alendronate~~; 1-hydroxy-ethidene-bisphosphonic acid, ~~e.g. etidronate;~~ 1-hydroxy-3-(methylpentylamino)-propylidene-bisphosphonic acid, ibandronic acid, ~~e.g. ibandronate;~~ 6-amino-1-hydroxyhexane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, ~~e.g. amino-hexyl-BP;~~ 3-(N-methyl-N-n-pentylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, ~~e.g. methyl-pentyl-APD (= BM 21.0955);~~ 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid; 1-hydroxy-2-(3-pyridyl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid ~~(risedronic acid), e.g. risedronate~~, including N-methyl pyridinium salts thereof, ~~for example N-methyl pyridinium iodides such as NE-10244 or NE-10446;~~ 1-(4-chlorophenylthio)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid ~~(tiludronic acid), e.g. tiludronate~~; 3-[N-(2-phenylthioethyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid; 1-hydroxy-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, ~~e.g. EB 1053 (Leo);~~ 1-(N-phenylaminothiocarbonyl)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, ~~e.g. FR 78844 (Fujisawa);~~ 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, ~~e.g. U-81581 (Upjohn);~~ 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, ~~e.g. YM 529;~~ and 1,1-dichloromethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid ~~(clodronic acid), e.g. clodronate~~.

17. (currently amended) A method ~~use or device~~ according to ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1-15~~, in which the bisphosphonate is a compound of Formula III




III

wherein

Het" is an imidazolyl, 2H-1,2,3-, 1H-1,2,4- or 4H-1,2,4-triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiazolyl or thiadiazolyl radical which is unsubstituted or C-mono-or di-substituted by lower alkyl, by lower alkoxy, bx phenyl which may in turn be mnon- or disubstituted by lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and/or halogen, by hydroxy, by di-lower alkylamino, by lower alkylthio and/or by halogen and is N-substituted at a substitutable N-atom by lower alkyl or by phenyl-lower alkyl which may in turn be mono- or di-substituted in the phenyl moiety by lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and/or halogen, and

$R_2$ is hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, lower alkylthio or halogen,

lower radicals having up to and including 7 C-atoms,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (currently amended) A method ~~use or device~~ according to claim 17, in which the bisphosphonate is zoledronic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof.